



R05-14-A-048

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF LOVES PARK

100 HEART BOULEVARD • LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS 61111 • 815 / 654-5030 • FAX: 815 / 633-2359

Darryl F. Lindberg, Mayor

January 22, 2014

Environmental Management Support, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. Don West
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: (301) 589-5318

Dear Mr. West:

On behalf of the City of Loves Park, I am pleased to submit this Proposal for a \$400,000 Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant. As a small municipality, we recognize the obstacle that brownfields create in our efforts to develop a healthy, sustainable environment while promoting economic growth. Although the City of Loves Park has successfully demonstrated an ability to utilize brownfield assessment grant funding, there are still over 200 potential brownfield sites in Loves Park that need addressing. Additional assessment funding is necessary to complete the work that the City has started on assessing and cleaning up brownfield sites throughout the City.

The City of Loves Park historically thrived due to commercial and industrial businesses that were quick to develop around two major transportation arteries located in the center of our community. These businesses and industries have dramatically declined as a result of the development of a high speed interstate that diverts traffic away from the heart of our City. Recent economic declines have further crippled the manufacturing sector, eliminating jobs that were once held by our diverse workforce. The industries and businesses that supported our City have faltered, leaving us with depleted resources to address the blight of abandoned buildings, numerous underutilized properties, and contamination that is negatively impacting our residents, the environment, and our economic recovery.

As our City faces a bleak economic climate and an underutilized workforce, it has identified the redevelopment of brownfields as a key component to its recovery and future growth. The invaluable benefits that our 2007 United States (US) EPA Brownfields Assessment Grants have brought to our community continue to demonstrate to us how valuable it is to continue our Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative. We are using our updated Comprehensive Plan to guide our Brownfields approach, which includes recommendations that revolve around the reuse of underutilized properties throughout the City. Our primary goal is to revitalize these properties through structured incentive programs that include brownfields grants, which will ultimately promote the health, safety, and sustainability of the community. The Comprehensive Plan also demonstrates the concerns identified by residents during numerous outreach sessions, which include: maintaining a diverse job sector; revitalizing our City's Heart as the center of commerce and culture; focus redevelopment on

"The City with a Heart"

deteriorated, obsolete, or under-utilized properties; and develop park and greenspace to promote recreation and a healthy lifestyle.

The City of Loves Park has an established, tremendously successful Brownfields Program that needs more resources, which a new Community-wide Assessment Grant will provide. This grant will help the City of Loves Park continue addressing the numerous brownfields that are limiting redevelopment options, and negatively impacting the environment, the resident's health, and the City's image. In Loves Park, brownfields redevelopment has proven to be a catalyst that creates a positive environment for new investment and leads to the transformation of entire neighborhoods and business districts. By completing the proposed assessment activities, the City hopes to strengthen its current Brownfields Program and to provide incentives for businesses and residents alike to invest in the community by redeveloping brownfields.

Applicant Identification:	City of Loves Park, 100 Heart Boulevard, Loves Park, IL 61111
DUNS Number:	034684092
Funding Request:	\$400,000 Community-Wide Assessment Grant (\$200,000 Petroleum, \$200,000 Hazardous Substances)
Location:	City of Loves Park, Winnebago County, Illinois
Chief Executive:	Mr. Darryl F. Lindberg, Mayor 100 Heart Boulevard, Loves Park, Illinois 61111 Phone: (815) 654-5030; Fax: (815) 633-2359 Email: LPMAYOR@aol.com
Project Director:	Mr. Dan Jacobson, Director of Public Works & Development 100 Heart Boulevard, Loves Park, Illinois 61111 Phone: (815) 654-5030; Fax: (815) 633-2359 Email: danjacobson@loves-park.il.us
Submittal Date:	January 22, 2014
Project Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2017
Population:	23,996 (US Census Bureau, 2010)

We hope that this Proposal demonstrates our community's need for brownfields assessment funding and recognizes our commitment to this project based upon our efforts with previous funding, as well as our future plans for the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites within the City of Loves Park. Please do not hesitate to contact me for information in regards to Loves Park's brownfields redevelopment efforts. Thank you for your consideration of this US EPA Community-wide Assessment Proposal.

Sincerely,



Darryl F. Lindberg, Mayor
City of Loves Park, Illinois

RANKING CRITERIA**1. COMMUNITY NEED****a. Targeted Community and Brownfields****i. Targeted Community Description**

The City of Loves Park, Illinois historically flourished due to commercial and industrial businesses that were quick to develop around two major transportation arteries located in the center of our community. Both have dramatically declined as a result of the development of a high speed interstate that diverted traffic away from the heart of our City. Ongoing economic instability has further crippled the manufacturing sector, eliminating jobs that were once held by a diverse workforce. The industries and businesses that historically supported our City have faltered, leaving us with depleted resources to address the blight of abandoned buildings, numerous underutilized properties, and contamination that is negatively impacting our residents, the environment, and our economic recovery. We were successful in receiving Brownfields funding in 2007, however those funds have been fully invested and much more important work remains to be completed. The City is faced with even greater unemployment and poverty since being awarded funding in 2007. Approximately 11% of the City's workforce is unemployed and the poverty rate has hit almost 10% (US Census Bureau, 2010). We urgently need additional Brownfields Assessment Grant funds to sustain the positive momentum of our successful brownfields redevelopment program, which allows us to continue with stimulating revitalization and to put our community back to work. In Loves Park, brownfields redevelopment has proven to be a catalyst that creates a positive environment for new investment and leads to the transformation of entire neighborhoods and business districts. The City of Loves Park, known as the "City with a Heart", is a small municipality of 23,996 situated along the Rock River in north central Illinois. The Illinois Highway 251 and East Riverside Corridors have historically served as the primary transportation arteries for the City, which paved the way for a once-flourishing network of commercial and industrial businesses. Residential neighborhoods were quick to develop around these once-stable employment sources. Prior to the development of Interstates 39/90, which allows users to bypass the core of our City, Illinois Highway 251 served as the primary north/south highway for regional transportation between Illinois and Wisconsin. The Highway 251 Corridor is two miles and spans the City in a north/south direction. East Riverside Boulevard intersects Illinois Highway 251 at what many consider the "Heart" of the City. East Riverside Boulevard spans the City in an east/west direction and begins at the Rock River. Naturally, both Corridors became the business activity center for the City due to their pedestrian visibility and vibrant traffic counts. At one time, the Corridors were filled with thriving, self-sufficient businesses. These corridors are now characterized by devalued properties, economic stagnation, poverty, blight, and vacancies. To make matters worse, our once-thriving industries and businesses have left behind a legacy of contamination throughout that can negatively impact our residents and makes it increasingly difficult to attract new users. As our City faces a bleak economic climate and an underutilized workforce, we have recognized the redevelopment of brownfields as a key component to our recovery and future growth.

ii. Demographic Information

We are such a small municipality that our need for grant funding is vital. The reduction of our sales tax revenue in our City has limited our ability to fund public improvement projects and environmental assessments. Our application is community-wide and has a focus on the Heart of our community (Census Tracts 2 and 3) and other potential brownfields throughout our community. The following table summarizes the demographics:

	Census Tract 2	Census Tract 3	Loves Park	Winnebago County	Illinois	National
Population ¹	3,259	4,192	23,996	295,266	\$12,830,632	308,745,538
Unemployment ²	3.5%	2.3%	12.7%	11.1%	8.7%	6.7%
Poverty Rate ¹	7.4%	4.2%	9.2%	15.9%	13.3%	14.3%

CITY OF LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

Percent Minority ¹	3.6%	4.6%	11.2%	17.9%	28.5%	26.7%
Per Capita Income ¹	\$23,103	\$23,037	\$23,945	\$24,008	\$28,469	\$26,530
Md. House. Income ¹	\$36,444	\$32,394	\$49,503	\$47,198	\$53,974	\$50,221
¹ Data is from 2010 US Census data and is available at: http://www.census.gov/						
² Data is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics as of November 2013 and is available at: http://www.bls.gov/						

iii. Brownfields

With the assistance of our Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee and public comments, our previous Brownfields Assessment Grant funds allowed us to develop and rank a City-wide inventory of 227 Brownfields parcels. One astonishing fact is that 223 of the 227 parcels are located within the Heart of our City. Those identified brownfields are impacting the environment in our community. The Rock River bounds the western limits of our City and is heavily utilized by citizens for fishing and recreation. The close proximity allows for a fragile hydro-geological setting of a shallow aquifer within deposits of sand and gravel. Combined with historical property uses, the threat of migrating contamination persists and is well documented. We have inventoried the presence of over 30 historical gas stations and automotive repair facilities alone within the two-mile stretch of Highway 251 that spans our City. The Illinois EPA has detected chlorinated Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in groundwater sampling wells installed at the river's banks while investigating three separate VOC groundwater plumes that plague our community. No source(s) have been identified to date and as a result contaminated groundwater continues to flow beneath residential areas to the river from brownfields located in the Heart of our community and is potentially impacting residence and the river. Our community has targeted the following priority brownfields sites in our Heart for assessment to encourage cleanup and redevelopment along with related contaminants-of-concern and known human health effects associated with exposure. Each site has a very high probability of redevelopment once contamination is evaluated and addressed due to the high transportation counts and proximity to residential neighborhoods. These sites also ranked very high on our site inventory rankings that were completed with our previous US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant funds.

Priority Site	Primary Contaminants ¹	Contaminant Health Effects ²
Former Sears Essentials Automotive Service (Riverside Corridor)	Chlorinated VOCs, Petroleum VOCs, Lead, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Barium Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs),	Nervous system damage; kidney/liver toxicity; anemia; cancer; reproduction system damage; birth defects; childhood developmental problems; miscarriages
River Lane Plating Shop (251 Corridor)	Chlorinated VOCs, PCBs, Chromium, Nickel, Cyanide, Asbestos	Nervous/reproductive system damage; lung cancer kidney/liver toxicity; anemia; cancer; development/birth defects; miscarriages
Multiple Former Filling Stations (251 Corridor)	Petroleum VOCs	Anemia; leukemia; kidney damage; nervous and reproductive system damage; cancer
Former Sand Park Landfill Natural Areas	VOCs, PAHs, Metals, PBCs,	Nervous/reproductive system damage; kidney/liver toxicity; anemia, cancer; birth/development defects; miscarriages
Former Sutherlands Lumber Co. (Riverside Corridor)	Petroleum VOCs, PAHs, Metals, Pesticides, Asbestos	Kidney/liver toxicity; anemia; leukemia; lung cancer; reproduction system damage; birth/development defects; miscarriages

¹Illinois EPA and environmental reports. ²Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Residents have the potential to be exposed to the contaminants listed above via direct contact with impacted soil and groundwater, inhalation of particulates and vapors, and ingestion. Our priority sites are located in close proximity to neighborhoods, schools, parks, and heavily used public water bodies. We assessed a total of twenty-four (24) brownfields sites with our previous Assessment Grant Funds and have cleaned up those determined to be contributing factors to contamination in our community. With no remaining funds, we are in dire need for new grant funds to evaluate the extent of contamination at our targeted sites, as well as the over 200 remaining brownfields identified in our inventory.

iv. Cumulative Environmental Issues

As City limits increased from the 1940s into the 1970s, the addition of previously un-zoned land allowed for non-conforming land uses that are inconsistent with modern zoning and our Comprehensive Plan. Our growth was supported by the annexation of historically rural industrial properties and surrounding rural land. The rural land then became zoned in accordance with modern zoning principals, where residential land uses thrived despite the close presence of industry where non-conforming use was grandfathered. Environmental regulations were limited during that era and enforcement was practically non-existent, allowing for the frequent release of industrial pollutants to air, soil, and surface/groundwater where our residents now live. With the decline of industry, many of these facilities have been abandoned, blighted, and unable to be reused due to current applicable zoning. Redevelopment that supports modern zoning is further complicated by known or perceived contamination. Additional assessment grant funds will allow us to further evaluate these non-conforming sites and support redevelopment efforts by eliminating the perception or presence of contamination and reducing exposure to residents. Many of these sites are located in our poorest areas that have the greatest potential for Environmental Justice scenarios. The redevelopment of non-conforming brownfields properties will also help improve the consistency of our Comprehensive Plan.

b. Impacts on Targeted Community

Our residents are very familiar with the health impacts that can result from exposure to contamination emanating from brownfields. In 2003, the Illinois EPA's State Response Action Program responded to the discovery of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), including chlorinated solvents, in numerous private residential water wells within the Heart of our City. Three separate VOC plume areas were identified by the Illinois EPA. The migration of VOC vapors from contaminated soil and groundwater into occupied buildings is an additional concern. Unfortunately, limited State funds have prevented a comprehensive investigation to locate source areas. The Illinois EPA has only been able to take action to isolate impacted residents by ensuring they are connected to a public water supply. However, it is anticipated that there are still some residential properties that remain connected to private water wells that may be affected. These grant funds would continue the City's efforts to identify these wells and evaluate vapor migration concerns while investigating brownfields. Any private water well found to be impacted or potentially impacted would be plugged and the property connected to a public water supply system, as required by the City's regulated Groundwater Use Ordinance. Municipal wells have also been affected by groundwater contamination. City Well #2, which formerly served the Heart of our City, was sealed in 2001 as a result of reoccurring VOC contamination. Therefore, the protection of City Well #1, which now serves the area, is of the most important. The geology of our City is comprised of sand and gravel, which allows for our shallow groundwater aquifer to be highly susceptible to migrating contamination and increases the chance of VOC vapor intrusion into homes and businesses. Identifying and addressing the sources of these contaminants through our assessment of brownfields will further protect City Well #1. Limiting our residents' exposure to contaminants in air, groundwater, soil, and soil vapor through the assessment and cleanup of brownfields is a priority for the City. Further, it is critical that we assess these sites due to the sensitive population groups that are present nearby, which includes young mothers and infants. The teen birth rate per 1,000 females (ages 15-19) is 5.2% in Loves Park, and is significantly higher than the National benchmark of 2.2% and a State rate of 4.1% (County Health Rankings, 2012). The economic collapse of our Heart has also limited our citizen's ability to access quality foods through the closure multiple grocery stores and creating brownfields where they once occupied. Currently, a single grocery store operates in the Heart of our City. Limited access to healthy food sources is not what the City needs during a time when nearly 1 in 3 adults and 17% of children in the United States are considered obese (CDC & Prevention, 2012). Winnebago County has consistently maintained obesity rates above both the national benchmark and the remainder of Illinois (County Health Rankings, 2012). We strongly

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

feel that brownfields are limiting availability of healthy food sources, which contributes to the increasing obesity and diabetes epidemics. 1 in 3 Winnebago County adults report high cholesterol and almost as many (30.3%) have high blood pressure. 30.9% of Winnebago County adults are classified as overweight and an additional 31.4% are considered obese, considerably higher than the State (26.4%). Furthermore, the County's 2008 obesity proportion rose by 10% since 2001 (Healthy Community Study, 2010). We frequently utilize US EPA's online EJView (Environmental Justice View) program as part of our assessment of brownfields. EJView allows users to create maps and generate detailed reports of geographical areas containing a number of demographic, health, and environmental-related statistics. EJView allows us to evaluate public and environmental health and identify potential Environmental Justice areas in our community. For instance, EJView shows that the cancer rate in the Heart of our City (76.08 per million) is nearly double the rate of our newer developed areas (44.79 per million). In addition, 58% of residents located within areas in our Heart rent their homes and have a significantly lower per capita income as compared to surrounding areas. Our highest concentrations of brownfields are located in the statistical areas described above.

c. Financial Need

i. Economic Conditions

We are such a small municipality that our need for grant funding is vital. The reduction of our sales tax revenue due to economic downturn and job loss in our City has limited our ability to fund public improvement projects and environmental assessments. Our application is community-wide and has a focus on the Heart of our community (Census Tracts 2 and 3) and other potential brownfields throughout our community. Census Tracts 2 and 3 have a substantially higher poverty level; a lower per capita income than the rest of the City, County and State; and a significantly lower median household income than those of the City, County, and State. According to the 2010 US Census data, there are concentrated areas in the Heart of our City with some of the lowest Median Household Incomes in the State. The data also demonstrates that the key economic need of our residents is well-paying jobs. As of September 2013, the unemployment rate of the Rockford Metropolitan Statistical Area, which Loves Park is a component of, was at 11.4%; placing the region 15th highest in the nation of all metropolitan areas. Securing new brownfields funds will allow us to carry on additional assessment activities that will remove the negative environmental perception that characterizes the Heart of our community, which and will allow our residents to begin implementing business growth activities that creates better and higher paying jobs.

ii. Economic Effects on Brownfields

The demographic profile on Page 2 of this Proposal demonstrates that our target areas have an increasing poverty rate, which is projected to be higher than the regional average; a lower per capita income than the rest of the City, County and State; and a significantly lower median household income than those of the City, County, and State. According to the 2010 US Census data, there are concentrated areas in the Heart of our City with some of the lowest Median Household Incomes in the State, such as Census Tract 2 at \$36,444 and Census Tract 3 at \$32,394. Compared to the State and Nation, the City of Loves Park's Median Household Income is noticeably lower. The data also demonstrates that the key economic need of our residents is well-paying jobs. As of November 2013, the unemployment rate of the Rockford Metropolitan Statistical Area, which the City of Loves Park is a component of, was at 11.4%, a significant increase from 2001 rates (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012); placing the region 15th highest in the nation of all metropolitan areas. According to a Winnebago and Boone Counties 2010 Healthy Community Study completed by the Rockford Health Council, the median home value in Winnebago County falls 40% below the State and 35% below the U.S. averages. In addition, the value of these homes is 12.5-16% lower than the median home value of homes located in newer areas of the City (US Census Bureau, 2010). To allow for a relatively low cost of living and operating, the City has strived to maintain a "zero municipal tax levy", which means the City receives no property tax from its residents and businesses in an effort to make

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

land more attractive to purchasers. In most cities, a portion of property taxes pay for public improvements and government functions. Loves Park primarily relies on sales tax for this revenue. The recent economic downturn has closed a large number of businesses and significantly reduced the amount of sales tax generated. The reduction of sales tax has postponed a number of valuable public improvement projects intended to spur economic development, many of which require environmental assessments. We have also identified a direct correlation between the number of brownfields and the amount of crime and emergency related responses within the City. The City is made up of five voting wards. The Heart of our City is encompassed by Wards 2 and 3 and a small portion of 4. Since 2007, 77.7% of all police and emergency responses in the City occurred in these Wards. (Loves Park Police Department Annual Statistic).

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION & FEASIBILITY OF SUCCESS

a. Project Description

i. Describe the project that will be funded and how the project aligns with the community's land use and revitalization plans

The City of Loves Park has created a very successful and effective Brownfields Program. Our Comprehensive Plan identifies the redevelopment and revitalization of deteriorated areas as key objectives. The primary goals of our Brownfields Program include: 1) the assessment of priority sites and other parcels located throughout the City with a high redevelopment potential; 2) conduct cleanup and redevelopment planning activities for sites where redevelopment is imminent; 3) promote the use of sustainable construction and redevelopment practices; and 4) seek opportunities to redeveloped brownfields where the end use will promote recreation and healthy lifestyle practices for our citizens. If awarded this Assessment Grant, we will have the funding we need to meet these goals. If awarded funding, we estimate spending approximately 70% of Task 4 (Phase I & II ESAs) on our priority sites that are impacting sensitive populations, yet have a high redevelopment potential; 20% to proactively assess other sites where residents' exposure to contaminants or impacts to natural resources are of concern; and 10% for assessment of sites where unanticipated development or business interest occurs. The City will submit an eligibility determination to US EPA or the Illinois EPA when a site is selected for assessment. Upon approval of eligibility, a Property Profile Form will be created in ACRES and the site evaluated through the completion of Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs). All Phase I ESAs will be conducted according to the requirements of All Appropriate Inquiry and ASTM Standard E1527-13 to identify Recognized Environmental Conditions. The environmental consultant will design a Phase II ESA in general accordance with ASTM Standard E1903-97 to investigate the potentially contaminated areas. Green site investigation and cleanup techniques will be encouraged. ASTM's recently developed Standard Guide for Green Cleanups (E2893-13) will serve as the foundation of our investigation activities. The guide focuses on incorporating greener Best Management Practices into site assessments and cleanups with the overall goal of reducing the environmental footprint during all phases. Specific applications include the use of direct push boring equipment and low-flow sampling pumps to minimize energy use and reduce investigation derived wastes, idling controls to reduce fuel consumption, and reliance of electronic-based reporting to reduce paper wastes. Typical assessment goals will be to evaluate the environmental liabilities, secure the site if immediate threats to human health exist, evaluate and minimize potential off-site impacts, and gauge redevelopment issues associated with contamination. When required, our environmental consultant will conduct a Phase II ESA to collect samples of soil, groundwater, asbestos, or soil gas for laboratory analysis. The environmental consultant will use the laboratory results to work with the City, developers, or community partners to devise liability management, cleanup, and re-use strategies that support redevelopment efforts outlined in our Comprehensive Plan. After completion of the initial assessment, additional investigations may be needed to further define the nature and extent of contamination, as well as cleanup planning for a safe and sustainable future use. Certain high-priority sites will be entered into the Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program, referred to as the Site Remediation Program, or the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program. The results of any assessments will be

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

disseminated to the community through public meetings, fact sheets, social media, or notification from our Community Partners. If immediate health threats are identified, the Illinois EPA and the Winnebago County Health Department will be notified along with our US EPA Project Manager. If needed, we will seek additional funding from local and state agencies, as well as US EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grants and Revolving Loan Funds for subsequent response actions. Throughout this process, the City and our environmental consultant will provide in-kind services such as public presentations to preserve grant funds. If funded, our consultant will prepare the required Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) at no charge to the grant, which will allow for an estimated savings of \$5,000 - \$7,000. We strive to continue our effective Brownfields Program so valuable business incentives are provided and reinvestment in our community can occur.

ii. Describe the project management approach

If awarded, this would be our second cooperative agreement with US EPA. The City of Loves Park, led by our Director of Community Development, Daniel Jacobson, and our City Planner, Nathan Bruck, and a qualified environmental consultant will continue to progress our community-oriented brownfields initiative to support revitalization. Our staff will serve as the core of the project, acting as an advisory committee that will provide guidance on how to effectively utilize grant funds and leverage additional funding sources to ensure success. Not only have these individuals guided the update of our Comprehensive Plan, but Mr. Bruck manages the City's Groundwater Guardian Program. The Groundwater Guardian Program is a non-profit program created by The Groundwater Foundation and provides education and community-based action programs that creatively involve communities in groundwater conservation and protection. Our staff has extensive experience facilitating and managing redevelopment projects, which will be utilized to support the most strategic use of brownfields grant funds. Loves Park Staff and our selected environmental consultant will be responsible for the day-to-day grant operations, including: maintaining our brownfields inventory; site selection; distributing project information to the community; and tracking progress through the use of US EPA's Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) database. City Staff will be responsible for procuring all contractual services and the submittal of required Quarterly Reports, Annual Financial Reports, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Reports to US EPA. If awarded an Assessment Grant, we will prepare a draft Work Plan and solicit public comment. A public announcement of the grant award will also occur. Once the Work Plan is approved by US EPA, we will retain a qualified environmental consultant in compliance with federal procurement regulations. The environmental consultant will assist with grant management operations, perform assessment work, and assist with reporting. We understand the importance of identifying the outcomes and outputs that our Brownfield Program will achieve. We will demonstrate this to US EPA by regularly updating the ACRES System for each site that is assessed using the grant funds. Tracked outcomes and outputs will include: acreage of land where environmental threats have been characterized; perceived or detected contaminants; acreage of land positioned for reuse; jobs and funding leveraged; and acreage of greenspace created or preserved; number of sites identified and prioritized; number of Phase I and Phase II ESAs; number of community meetings held; number of site enrollment into the State voluntary cleanup program, and number of sites cleaned up and issued No Further Remediation Letters.

iii. Site Selection

Even prior to our 2007 grant award, we created an initial Brownfields inventory with our own resources and have continuously supplemented it as new data becomes available. We will work with our community partners, our environmental consultant, and our staff to prioritize our sites based on redevelopment potential and environmental condition, which can be changing variables. The environmental conditions will be determined by our consultant, while the redevelopment potential component will be determined with the help of our community partners. We will continue to use a ranking system developed by our Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee (BRAC) that was established under our previous

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

assessment grants and included a diversified group of community stakeholders from all sectors. This will allow us to focus our grant funds on the highest scoring sites. We have 227 brownfields that have been previously prioritized. If awarded, our BRAC will be reconvened to reevaluate these sites and any new brownfields we are made aware of. We do not foresee any access issues to assessed properties. If necessary, a written access agreement will be obtained from property owners. No property owner will be coerced into participation in the City's Brownfields assessment activities and we will openly communicate the intent of our program to those involved. Any access issues will also be communicated with US EPA.

b. Task Description and Budget Table

Task 1: Programmatic Costs: The budget includes programmatic costs of \$9,500 each for Hazardous Substances and Petroleum assessment grant funds. The City's personnel costs along with the consultant's contractual costs will cover the preparation and submittal of quarterly and annual reports and for maintaining brownfields data in our GIS System. Contractual costs of \$5,000 for each set of grant funds (Hazardous Substances/Petroleum) will allow for our environmental consultant to coordinate with US EPA on the project, document site selection activities, and coordinate and conduct operational meetings. Our proposed travel costs, \$3,000 for both the Hazardous Substances and Petroleum budgets will allow for two City staff members to attend US EPA's National Brownfields Conference and other approved brownfields-related seminars. A supply cost of \$1,500 for both the Hazardous Substances and Petroleum budgets will be used by the City to purchase a computer capable of maintaining a modern GIS platform to effectively maintain our immense and constantly changing site inventory.

Task 2: Community Outreach: We will continue to encourage and facilitate community reuse of targeted sites. Because brownfields projects typically involve partnerships between the private and public sectors; industrial, financial and other community stakeholders benefit from the collaborative planning, investment, and development opportunities. These costs include a total of \$5,000 for both the Hazardous Substances and Petroleum budgets that will be used to conduct community involvement and outreach programs and meetings. The cost will be split between City personal and contractual costs (\$2,500 each) and will include preparing and distributing project information and marketing documents, press releases, developing/updating fact sheets, and maintaining outreach to citizens through social media and our website to ensure the public remains informed and involved.

Task 3: Site Inventory: We have developed and maintained an extensive brownfields inventory using previous grant funds. The proposed budgets includes maintenance and update costs of \$5,000 for each Hazardous Substances and Petroleum budget and will include reconvening our BRAC for a series of meetings to identify and rank new sites and re-evaluate our existing ones. The site inventory focuses on our priority sites, as well as any sites where assessment or cleanup activities have occurred. Our environmental consultant will assist us in maintaining the site inventory. Eligibility Determination Forms will be submitted to the US EPA or Illinois EPA for approval prior to commencing assessment work funded by this grant.

Task 4: Site Assessment: Based on site inventory rankings and community needs, selected sites will be evaluated through Phase I and Phase II ESAs. The assessments will be conducted in compliance with All Appropriate Inquiry as well as applicable ASTM standards and practices. The costs for completing Phase I and Phase II ESAs can vary depending on the complexity of the sites. Based on previous assessments, it is anticipated that Phase I ESA costs will range from \$2,500 - \$4,500 and Phase II ESA costs approximately \$20,000 - \$50,000, per site. We estimate that 14 total sites will undergo Phase I ESA activities at an average cost of \$3,500 each, which allows for a budget of \$24,500 for each Hazardous Substances and Petroleum budget. We anticipate conducting at least 4 - 6 Phase II ESAs to evaluate findings of the Phase I ESAs. If a minimum of 8 Phase II ESAs are performed at an average cost of \$31,000 per site, a total Phase II budget of \$248,000 (\$124,000 for each Hazardous Substances and Petroleum budget) is proposed. The assessments will determine the degrees of contamination present and whether immediate threats persist to residents or the environment. The results of the Phase II ESAs will

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

be compared to Illinois EPA's Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives (TACO) to evaluate contaminants through human exposure pathways. If contamination is identified, we will seek to enroll impacted sites in the Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program for further investigation and remedial planning. We anticipate the enrollment of four to six sites into the voluntary cleanup program. We are budgeting \$15,000 for each Hazardous Substances and Petroleum budget to cover enrollment fees and project review fees from Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program. Health and Safety and Sampling Analysis Plans will be prepared and submitted to US EPA for approval before commencing all Phase II ESA activities. A Quality Assurance Project Plan will also be prepared by the environmental consultant in accordance with the US EPA's guidelines at no cost to the grant.

Task 5: Cleanup Planning: The City will conduct cleanup and redevelopment planning as required by the Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program or the Leaking Underground Storage Tank program for sites where redevelopment is imminent. This task will include the preparation of Remedial Action Plans, assessment of brownfields cleanup and redevelopment alternatives, and the evaluation of institutional and engineering controls. Contractual costs for this task are estimated at \$12,000 for each Hazardous Substances and Petroleum budget. These costs are based on the completion of four Hazardous Substances Remedial Action Plans and four Petroleum Remedial Action Plans, estimated at \$3,000 each. An additional \$5,000 for each Hazardous Substance and Petroleum budgets will be programmed for the Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program oversight fees.

COMMUNITY-WIDE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES PROJECT TASKS						
BUDGET CATEGORIES	Task 1: Programmatic Costs	Task 2: Community Outreach	Task 3: Site Inventory	Task 4: Phase I and II Site Assessments	Task 5: Cleanup Planning	Total
Personnel	-	\$2,500	-	-	-	\$2,500
Travel	\$3,000	-	-	-	-	\$3,000
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies	\$1,500	-	-	-	-	\$1,500
Contractual	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$148,500	\$12,000	\$173,000
IL EPA Fees	-	-	-	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
Project Total	\$9,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$163,500	\$17,000	\$200,000
COMMUNITY-WIDE PETROLEUM PROJECT TASKS						
BUDGET CATEGORIES	Task 1: Programmatic Costs	Task 2: Community Outreach	Task 3: Site Inventory	Task 4: Phase I and II Site Assessments	Task 5: Cleanup Planning	Total
Personnel	-	\$2,500	-	-	-	\$2,500
Travel	\$3,000	-	-	-	-	\$3,000
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies	\$1,500	-	-	-	-	\$1,500
Contractual	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$148,500	\$12,000	\$173,000
IL EPA Fees	-	-	-	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
Project Total	\$9,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$163,500	\$17,000	\$200,000

c. Ability to Leverage

The City of Loves Park is requesting \$400,000 in Community-Wide Assessment Grant funds. With our experience from our previous assessment funding, we are realistic in recognizing that it will be difficult to fund all of our project goals related to the assessment and redevelopment phases of our initiative. Therefore, the City has established some valuable tools that are available to help finance these important

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

projects. During the recent economic recession, the City has worked tirelessly to create two Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts that run along the Illinois Highway 251 and East Riverside Corridors. These TIF Districts are our best tool for committing local funds to redeveloping these highly commercialized Corridors that have fallen into a state of severe dilapidation and high vacancy. The City does not levy a municipal property tax, so it is vital for us to ensure that retail business centers operate within our City at full potential. In 2010, the Riverside Boulevard Corridor Study was initiated using State Planning funds leveraged from the Rockford Metropolitan Area for Planning (RMAP). RMAP serves as a community partner in our brownfields program. RMAP is the official metropolitan planning organization for the region and is empowered and governed by Loves Park and a number of surrounding communities. The study reviewed existing transportation-related conditions to identify long-term improvements. In August 2011, the City invested in a feasibility study for industrial development at the eastern limits of East Riverside Boulevard. Since our region has such a high unemployment rate, our market will continue to be a challenge, and investments such as these are needed to attract businesses and industry and to supplement our Brownfields Program. The study has allowed for the approval of a third Industrial TIF district that works similar to traditional TIF districts, except this particular TIF district was created in an area of high unemployment as a result of the Industrial Jobs Recovery Act. In 2012, RMAP utilized HUD Partnership for Sustainability Communities Grant funds for a county-wide inventory of over 1,500 brownfields sites in Winnebago and Boone Counties. Loves Park provided our pre-existing inventory of over 200 sites to serve as a foundation and model for the study to organizing and rank all regional sites. We have also been successful in leveraging State resources to ensure the success of our projects. On February 14, 2011, our City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 11-17 to promote the redevelopment of abandoned and underutilized lands and provide protection to health and the environment within the City. The resolution requested the assistance of the Illinois EPA and US EPA in identifying environmental conditions throughout the City. The resolution has allowed for the City to utilize the resources of the Illinois EPA's Office of Site Evaluations (OSE). In August 2011, the OSE mobilized to the City to provide a timely and comprehensive environmental investigation on the Sonic Drive-In brownfields site. OSE provided drilling, sampling, and laboratory analytical services. We estimate the value of the provided services to be in the range of \$25,000 - \$30,000. We will continue to rely on the support and services of OSE to preserve grant dollars and bridge funding gaps where needed. The City and our consultant will continue to contribute in-kind services for this project. Staff time, particularly in the compilation of the Community Outreach and Program Development Tasks, will be significant. We will also continue to use our Public Works staff and equipment when possible for excavation, trucking of non-hazardous materials, and installing and maintaining site security measures. Our code officers will be utilized to conduct frequent inspections to ensure our brownfields sites maintain compliance with our municipal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit to prevent pollution runoff from discharging to surrounding areas and our surface waters. Our creative efforts will continue to identify other sources of State and Federal Grant funds to ensure that cleanup and restoration is achieved at our invested sites. In particular, we will actively pursue funding from: Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Department of Energy, and of course, private investment. Although we strive to obtain a surplus of leveraged resources, as a small municipality, we do not have the capacity, tax base, or funding to meet all challenges that brownfields redevelopment projects require. Without the assistance of grant funds from the US EPA, our proactive assessment of brownfields would stall and allow for ongoing threats to our health and safety, environment, and economic viability.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

a. Plan for Involving Targeted Community & Stakeholders/Communicating Project Progress

Brownfields redevelopment is inherently challenging. We recognize that we can improve our success rate in facilitating redevelopment by drawing on the different areas of expertise of our local, regional, state, and federal partners. We will include affected neighborhoods and their respective residents as vital partners in

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

our assessment, cleanup, and reuse plans. Neighborhood organizations and citizen's groups will have the opportunity to express their concerns, identify their needs, and create and implement redevelopment plans. As we move forward, we will continue to develop and update fact sheets on the status of our brownfields assessment activities at important milestones. We will continue to post these fact sheets on our Facebook and municipal webpage electronically and e-mail copies directly to our community partners and the North Suburban Library District to reduce paper consumption. We are also currently reaching out to younger populations, other community groups, and non-English speaking individuals through the use of social media. A "City of Loves Park Brownfields Initiative" Facebook page was created in 2011 to assist in providing status updates and to initiate community involvement. Lastly, we will hold Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee meetings when major updates are needed to our inventory. The focus of our notification program will be community-wide. We will continue to incorporate brownfields into our community-based action programs affiliated with our Groundwater Guardian Program. It has and will be a priority for us to ensure that we describe our activities and present them in ways that are easily understood by our residents who most likely will be unfamiliar with environmental and scientific terminology. Furthermore, we have identified a large elderly population located in areas of our Community for which we will provide written communications for those that are hearing impaired. Our social networking Facebook page allows for users to translate updates in over 70 languages. If a non-English speaking household is confirmed to be directly impacted by our assessment work, we will seek out translation services.

b. Partnerships with Government Agencies**i. Local State Environmental and Health Agencies**

We have developed a strong working relationship with both the Winnebago County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health, and will work with them to discover any potential links between our brownfields sites and area health issues. We will continue to contact the Winnebago County Health Department as part of every Phase I Environmental Site Assessment that is completed. The Winnebago County Health Department has been very responsive and supportive of our efforts to gather information in regards to possible contaminants and their health effects, as well as groundwater contamination and private water well information. The Illinois Department of Public Health has worked with us to identify known and potentially contaminated sites and has provided us with vital health statistics from the area that assists us in linking this project with area health issues. The contaminants that we are concerned about or believe to be present based upon historic site uses are VOCs, metals, PAHs, asbestos, petroleum, and controlled substances. Throughout our project, we will carefully consider potential health risks to our residents. The Illinois EPA will continue to be a vital partner in overseeing the environmental assessment, and ultimate cleanup of Brownfield sites in our community. If through our assessment activities, contamination is confirmed, we will seek to enroll the sites into the Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program or continue to utilize the Illinois EPA OSE. As our work advances beyond this grant into cleanup activities, we will continue to work with Illinois EPA to acquire No Further Remediation Letters. Currently, there are no local environmental job training programs in the region. However, we will continue to utilize construction-based programs to strengthen our workforce and promote sustainability in our redevelopment practices.

ii. Other relevant Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies

We will continue to rely on our local Fire Department and North Suburban Library District for supplying valuable historical information related to past uses of properties undergoing assessment work. The Fire Department maintains records for every addressed land parcel and has supported our work by providing records related to known historical tanks, spills, and hazardous conditions. The North Suburban Library District maintains a local history room that contains numerous historical maps, city directories, and other documents that can identify past property uses and potential environmental concerns. When assessing a property using our past grant funds, inquiries were frequently made to library staff who were able to locate

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

valuable information for targeted sites. The library is also a perfect location for community outreach where fact sheets and community input requests are distributed. We will also continue to partner with the Rockford Park District as we did with the redevelopment of our J.H. Patterson site (please see Section 5.c.i.2 – Accomplishments).

c. Partnerships with Community Organizations

To ensure the success of our brownfields project, we partnered with organizations that have proven to be invaluable to our redevelopment efforts. Our partners will have a vital, significant role in our Brownfields Program. Attachment C provides their Letters of Support and details the roles each will play.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful: Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Inc. has been engaged in educating, developing public awareness and providing service to the citizens of northern Illinois with regard to the abatement of litter, the preservation of our local resources and the management of solid waste. As a community partner, Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful will include brownfields education and seek valuable community input through our ongoing work with businesses, schools, neighborhood groups and local governments to enhance our neighborhoods.

Rockford Park District: The Rockford Park District (RPD) has and will continue to serve on our Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee and assist us with the development of sustainability recreational facilities. The RPD's primary duty is to identify recreational service gap areas that are in close proximity to brownfields properties where contamination may be affecting residents.

RMAP: The Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) is the official metropolitan planning organization for the region. RMAP will work with us to identify and secure transportation related funding sources to supplement City sponsored brownfields redevelopment projects and will continue to fund valuable planning studies that are needed to initiate projects, as with the East Riverside Corridor Study. In 2012, RMAP utilized HUD Sustainability Grant funds for a county-wide inventory of over 1500 brownfields sites in Winnebago and Boone Counties. Loves Park provided our pre-existing inventory of over 200 sites to serve as a foundation and model for the study to organizing and rank sites.

Loves Park Rotary Club: The mission of Rotary International's Loves Park Chapter is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Loves Park Rotary will seek to enhance to the public's image and awareness of Brownfields through their meetings, events, and newsletters.

Illinois EPA Office of Site Evaluations (OSE): The Illinois EPA's OSE will continue to provide assistance with future brownfields assessment projects when needed by providing drilling equipment, labor, and laboratory analysis at no charge to bridge funding gaps.

4. PROJECT BENEFITS

a. Health and/or Welfare of the Environment

As explained in previous sections of this Proposal, our targeted community needs jobs, clean water, and to be free of the risk of vapor intrusion emanating from brownfields sites. This project will move forward our community supported Comprehensive Plan to clean up and redevelop brownfields. It is anticipated that the redevelopment of the priority brownfield properties that are targeted for assessment will provide jobs, including jobs that provide for a more livable minimum wage. Another expected project benefit is the reduced health risk from VOC's in groundwater, and we cannot put a monetary value on the health of our residents. We have proven success in three redeveloped brownfield sites. Phase I Environmental Site Assessments can help remove the perception of contamination and reduce purchaser's liabilities to allow projects to move forward, as was the situation with our Modern Metal Products and Crusader Clinic redevelopment projects. Phase II Environmental Site Assessments identify contamination and allow for creative and practical cleanup to occur, such as with our J.H. Patterson project. With this assessment grant, the City of Loves Park will be able to continue to successfully assess and redevelop brownfield sites, while supporting our Comprehensive Plan's objectives and embracing US EPA's Livability Principles. Assessing

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

our brownfields will lead to cleanup and redevelopment that will improve our residents' health and welfare by eliminating their exposure to existing contamination through inhalation, ingestion, and other contact exposures. Furthermore, the promotion of recreation will give our citizens healthier lifestyle alternatives and increase in public health.

b. Environmental Benefits from Infrastructure Reuse/Sustainable Reuse

i. Describe how your community is using planning, policies, ordinances or other tools to foster and implement sustainable development

Pollution prevention, contaminant cleanup, and the reduction of resource consumption are important goals of our Brownfields Program. Contamination will be identified and evaluated with the Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments conducted at eligible sites. If required, cleanup activities using alternative funds will occur. Our primary goal in our Brownfields Initiative is to reduce the threat of contamination to human health and the environment facing our residents. Conducting assessment activities on brownfields sites that lead to future cleanup and redevelopment all contribute to the removal of pollution. We will also continue to ensure that our assessment activities do not contribute to additional pollution by following to the greatest extent possible US EPA's Green Remediation Best Management Practices. Specific activities include controlling the emissions of airborne contaminants with strict equipment and vehicle idling practices and control of precipitation runoff from drilling activities. Using our code officers, we will conduct frequent inspections to ensure our brownfields sites undergoing redevelopment maintain compliance with our municipal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit, which prevents water pollution by regulating runoff and point sources that can discharge pollutants to our surface waters. We will continue to allow our Comprehensive Plan to guide us in the adopting of sustainable development practices that reduce energy consumption and limit our carbon footprint. We recognize the importance of green buildings and have made a commitment to incorporate them into future development and improvement projects, as similar to the Crusader Clinic and JH Patterson projects. Most importantly, our shallow groundwater is our primary source of our drinking water so protecting it is very important. We need this funding to directly address brownfields sites that threaten the quality of our highly susceptible drinking water source, so no additional municipal wells become impacted and no new municipal wells need to be constructed.

ii. Provide one example of efforts you have taken in your planning to integrate equitable development or livability principles for cleanup and revitalization of brownfields

Since 2011, the Rockford Region, which includes the City of Loves Park, has been working to develop the first regional plan for sustainable development. This initiative, called "Rockford Region Vital Signs", is based first and foremost on taking the social, economic, and environmental pulse of the Rockford Region. Once community leaders know the strengths and weaknesses of the region's sustainability and well-being, it is our belief they can be more strategic in determining what needs to be done to improve the community. Three reports were released between 2011 and 2013, aiming to empower community leaders from diverse backgrounds, for perhaps the first time in concert, to have a clear picture of the region's interworking parts. The hope is for our regions' leaders to begin a conversation on how to improve the region's sustainability by being "on the same page". This initiative is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Partnership for Sustainable Communities. This award to the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) was the result of a local consortium of 30 agencies in Boone and Winnebago Counties agreeing to support and align their strategic plans and long-range visions into a set of common goals and action steps. The local consortium is anchored by RMAP, our regional metropolitan planning organization, and one of our Community Partners.

c. Economic or Non-Economic Benefits (long term benefits)

i. Discuss Economic Benefits or Non-Economic Benefits

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

Since the City of Loves Park receives no tax revenue from property taxes, all City services are funded through the local sales tax. As a result, we are very focused on working with commercial developers and business owners to create jobs and increase our tax base. The Heart of our community has historically been our commercial and industrial base and can once again be an economic advantage. Although our TIF districts will attract development, the use of brownfields grant funds will further position environmentally challenged properties for redevelopment. Redevelopment will bring investors and developers back to the Heart of our City, eager to purchase remediated property. These investments will create jobs and improve the overall economic quality and livability of our city. We know this to be true based on the benefits we have seen as a result of our previous brownfields grant funds. The funds made way for the creation of jobs and sales tax revenue at our Sonic Drive-In, Crusader Clinic, and Modern Metal Products redevelopment sites. Redeveloping the Heart of our City will allow citizens to be in walking distance of these much needed re-established services and employers that previously closed or left to pursue greenfield developments, a trend we desire to reverse. Brownfields have proven to be a prime catalyst for producing a sustainable community and economy that we desire. Much of the housing stock near the Highway 251 Corridor is on the inferior side of the median home values. The only draw to this area is the lower cost of living due to no municipal levied property taxes and not the quality of life for the immediate area. We desire to have the adjacent housing become desirable not just for the cost, but for the proximity to well-planned and vibrant developments that will provide our residents with nearby services they desire and need. Our Comprehensive Plan specifically details redevelopment with the inclusion of open and greenspace to compliment the areas. As the Heart of our City struggles to improve its vitality due to vacancies and contamination, we need every resource possible to assist in its revitalization. Some of the specific guidance in our Comprehensive Plan includes integrating native vegetation for sustainability of site designs and developing community gardens to supplement a lack of quality food sources in our community. It also seeks to create a single interconnected recreational path that will branch throughout the City and connect us to the Rock River. If awarded, these grant funds will facilitate the development of greenspace or open space in our Heart and the remainder of the community. Our ongoing community partnership with the Rockford Park District has been a catalyst for the creation of recreational and open space by the development of neighborhood parks in areas where service gaps are identified. The addition of parks and open space will only add to the value of surrounding properties. We have begun to reinvest and revitalize the Heart of our City.

ii. Describe any planned efforts to promote local hiring and procurement or link members of the community to potential employment opportunities in brownfields assessment, cleanup, or redevelopment related to your proposed project.

There are currently no EPA job training programs nearby. We continue to support the hiring of local contractors for construction projects related to environmental cleanup and redevelopment through our standard procurement process. The use of local contractors ensures that our workforce is being utilized and sought after to fill service gaps.

5. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

a. Programmatic Capability

If this grant is awarded, it would be our second cooperative agreement with US EPA. The City's Community Development staff will maintain precise records of the grant activities and project contributions. We will continue to engage community involvement and will work with our community partners to ensure that all components of our project are communicated. We will enter into a contractual relationship with an environmental consulting firm that specializes in brownfields to assist with project management and eligible programmatic activities and work closely with the Illinois EPA and the US EPA Project Managers to oversee and approve project activities. We understand the importance of identifying the outcomes/outputs that our program will achieve. We will demonstrate this to US EPA by regularly

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

updating the ACRES System for each site that is assessed. Tracked outcomes/outputs will include those discussed in Section 2.a.i.

b. Audit Findings

The City of Loves Park has not had any adverse audit findings with a state or federal grant.

c. Past Performance and Accomplishments

i. Currently or Has Ever Received EPA Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, or Cleanup Grant

The City of Loves Park was awarded a US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant in 2007 in the amounts of \$200,000 for each Hazardous Substance and Petroleum sites. We have been very successful with our Brownfields Program, addressing numerous sites, initiating sites for redevelopment, and leveraging funding and services to implement redevelopment plans.

1. Compliance with Grant Requirements

The City of Loves Park has remained in compliance with our approved Work Plan and Cooperative Agreement. We have maintained our proposed schedule and complied with all terms and conditions to date. In addition, all reporting activities have been completed and reports submitted in a timely manner.

2. Accomplishments

To date, we have accomplished a great deal with our Brownfields Program. Upon our initial award of funds in 2007, we immediately established a Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee that consisted of ten members, representing the City, local industry, regional economic development entities, residents, and public service providers. The group inventoried a total of 227 individual brownfield sites in our community and established ranking criteria to prioritize them for assessment activities. Eligibility determinations were proactively obtained for a multiple sites located in the Heart of our community in anticipation of increased development. With our previous brownfields funds, we conducted Phase I ESAs on 23 properties; completed 6 Phase II ESAs and 3 asbestos inspections; enrolled 4 sites in cleanup programs; and obtained 2 No Further Remediation Letters.

The crown jewel of our Brownfields Program is the redevelopment of the former J.H. Patterson site into the Loves Park Playground. Located in the Heart of our community, this Brownfields redevelopment project was truly a collaborative community effort. The site operated as a lumberyard and bulk petroleum plant since 1921. When operations ceased, the site fell into a state of underutilization and neglect. We utilized our assessment grant funds to complete Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, conduct an asbestos inspection, and enroll the site into the Illinois EPA's voluntary clean-up program to secure a No Further Remediation Letter. Redevelopment plans for the site were completed in the summer of 2012. The project was designated as one of the first developments to test a new rating system called the "Sustainable Sites Initiative" that focuses on sustainable design, construction, and maintenance of parks. The project has become a model for the development of sustainable parks in the area. Specific sustainable efforts made at this site include the use of recycled materials, the creation of rain gardens and bio-swales, and the implementation of other eco-friendly storm water management efforts to reduce and filter runoff. The redevelopment includes pickleball and volleyball courts, a new playground, baseball fields, and an exercise path. The project was a collaborative effort between the City of Loves Park, Rockford Park District, Carlson Boys & Girls Club, and Woodward Governor Company. Assessment grant funds evaluated the contamination at the site resulting from past use. Once determined to be non-hazardous in nature, the City used our own capital and equipment to excavate petroleum-impacted soil and transport to a local landfill. The site was initially purchased for \$600,000 using funds donated by Woodward Governor Company. We then worked with the Rockford Park District to secure a \$400,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant. Since the grant did not fully cover the project costs, we were very innovative about leveraging resources. We began by working with Comprehensive Community Solutions, Inc. (CCS) to deconstruct salvageable materials from the onsite structures. CCS utilized this project as a pilot program for green job-training efforts. CCS recycled most of the reusable building materials to

US EPA BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

provide an alternative to landfilling. A \$250,000 shortfall prevailed as a result of large buildings that were beyond the capability of CCS. To keep the project alive, a local contractor donated approximately \$250,000 in equipment and labor to clear the land. The City leveraged an additional \$70,000 for fuel and disposal fees. To secure the success of the project, a local Senator took the cause to the State Capital and secured an additional \$100,000 to complete the project. In April of 2013, the project was awarded a US EPA Brownfields Project Recognition Award at the National Brownfields Conference in Atlanta. A City staff member was present to accept the award. The redevelopment unbound the previously landlocked Woodward Governor and allowed for them to build a turbine test facility on adjacent and underutilized park space, which created an estimated 250 construction jobs. The facility officially opened in November 2011 and added 6 full time jobs. The facility was constructed with the goal of supporting future local business growth for Woodward Governor. At that time, nobody imagined the future effects of this initial project. However, in November of 2012, Woodward Governor broke ground on a \$200 million aerospace manufacturing campus in Loves Park that is projected to create over 1,000 jobs in the next 10 years.

We are also particularly proud of the work that has been completed at the Former Modern Metal Products site. Production at the former auto-parts manufacturing facility ceased in February 2009 as a direct result of the recession that crippled the auto industry. During the summer of 2009, Water Surplus Inc. sought to relocate its operations to the facility. The company specializes in the purchasing, refurbishing, and resale of large-scale water treatment equipment. Perceived environmental conditions related to a historic electroplating division immediately became a major obstacle. Furthermore, the site is located in the Heart of our community where varieties of chlorinated VOCs have been detected in shallow groundwater and were being investigated by the Illinois EPA. The City feared that the facility would sit vacant and fall into a state of disarray as a result of the environmental conditions and the potential Superfund liabilities. We utilized our assessment grant funds to perform a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and a subsequent Phase II Environmental Site Assessment that identified chlorinated VOCs in soil and groundwater. The AAI compliant Phase I allowed Water Surplus to seek Superfund liability protection as a *Bona Fide Perspective Purchaser* and purchase the site. Upon purchase, the site was enrolled in the Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program. Assessment grant funds were further used to complete all required tasks. A No Further Remediation Letter was issued in March of 2012 for the site. Water Surplus has created 13 full-time positions and 3 part-time positions in the City since relocating.

Our previous assessment grant funds were also utilized to conduct a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment on a series of parcels located along the Highway 251 Corridor. The City and Crusader Health Group identified a significant service gap of affordable health care providers in the Heart of our community. Crusader Health Group is a community-based, non-profit health system that provides healthcare for those in poverty. As a result, a series of parcels were targeted as the future site of a new Crusader Clinic outpatient facility. However, the presence of historical filling stations and perceived contamination in the area threatened the project. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment removed the perception and allowed for the redevelopment to move forward. In September 2011, Crusader Clinic officially opened the doors of a new LEED Platinum medical facility, which created 38 new high-paying full time jobs. We continue to work with Crusader Health Group to identify additional affordable healthcare gaps in our community. In addition to the project successes, we have also been able to send two staff Members to US EPA Brownfields Conferences in New Orleans and Philadelphia, where valuable ideas were learned and shared.

- ii. **Not Applicable.** The City of Loves Park HAS previously received EPA Brownfields funding.
- iii. **Not Applicable.** The City of Loves Park HAS previously received Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements.

ATTACHMENT A: THRESHOLD DOCUMENTATION

THRESHOLD CRITERIA

1. Applicant Eligibility: The City of Loves Park is an incorporated municipality of the State of Illinois and has the authority to enter into a cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

2. Letter from State Environmental Authority: The City of Loves Park has received a letter of acknowledgement from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. (Please see Attachment B: Letter of Acknowledgement from IEPA)

3. Community Involvement:

Brownfields redevelopment is inherently challenging. We recognize that we can improve our success rate in facilitating redevelopment by drawing on the different areas of expertise of our local, regional, state, and federal partners. We will include affected neighborhoods and their respective residents as vital partners in our assessment, cleanup, and reuse plans. Neighborhood organizations and citizen's groups will have the opportunity to express their concerns, identify their needs, and create and implement redevelopment plans. As we move forward, we will continue to develop and update fact sheets on the status of our brownfields assessment activities at important milestones. We will continue to post these fact sheets on our Facebook and municipal webpage electronically and e-mail copies directly to our community partners and the North Suburban Library District to reduce paper consumption. We are also currently reaching out to younger populations, other community groups, and non-English speaking individuals through the use of social media. A "City of Loves Park Brownfields Initiative" Facebook page was created in 2011 to assist in providing status updates and to initiate community involvement. Lastly, we will hold Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee meetings when major updates are needed to our inventory. The focus of our notification program will be community-wide. We will continue to incorporate brownfields into our community-based action programs affiliated with our Groundwater Guardian Program. It has and will be a priority for us to ensure that we describe our activities and present them in ways that are easily understood by our residents who most likely will be unfamiliar with environmental and scientific terminology. Furthermore, we have identified a large elderly population located in areas of our Community for which we will provide written communications for those that are hearing impaired. Our social networking Facebook page allows for users to translate updates in over 70 languages. If a non-English speaking household is confirmed to be directly impacted by our assessment work, we will seek out translation services.

4. Site Eligibility and Property Ownership Eligibility: Not Applicable. This Proposal is for a Community-Wide Assessment Grant. An eligibility determination matrix will be submitted for each of the sites selected for assessment upon the award of this Community-Wide Assessment Grant.

ATTACHMENT B:
LETTER OF
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM
IEPA



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-2829

PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

LISA BONNETT, DIRECTOR

December 10, 2013

Ms. Linda Mangrum
Ms. Kelley Moore
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd. (SM-7J)
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Mangrum and Ms. Moore:

The City of Loves Park is applying for a \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant for Hazardous Substances and a \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant for Petroleum from U.S. EPA. Both grants will be used to perform community-wide assessments.

If the City of Loves Park identifies properties in the target area potentially contaminated with petroleum, it will seek an eligibility determination from Illinois EPA before conducting site-specific assessments.

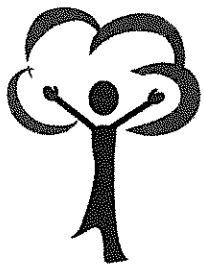
Illinois EPA supports the City of Loves Park's efforts to obtain federal Brownfields funds for this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 217-785-4729 or heather.nifong@illinois.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Nifong".

Heather Nifong
Programs Advisor
Division of Remediation Management

**ATTACHMENT C:
LETTER OF SUPPORT
FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERS**



KEEP NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEAUTIFUL

"Recycling ♻️ Litter Prevention ♻️ Beautification"

5417 N. SECOND STREET • LOVES PARK, IL 61111

(815) 637-1343 • WWW.KNIB.ORG

January 2, 2014

Mayor Darryl Lindberg
City of Loves Park
100 Heart Boulevard
Loves Park, IL 61111

Dear Mayor Lindberg;

Since 1988, Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Inc. has been engaged in educating, developing public awareness and providing service to the citizens of northern Illinois with regard to the abatement of litter, the preservation of our local resources and the management of solid waste. We continuously encourage individuals and community groups to work together and become mutually accountable to each other for doing their part in making and keeping their community a cleaner, happier and healthier place to live.

We recognize the value of Loves Park's brownfields program to the community and feel that many of your initiatives overlap with our organization's mission, which includes improving our environment through education, public awareness and community involvement. Our work also is consistent with many components of the City of Loves Park's Comprehensive Plan.

As a community partner to Loves Park's brownfields program, Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful will include brownfields education and seek valuable community input through our ongoing work with businesses, schools, neighborhood groups and local governments to enhance our neighborhoods. We also look forward to holding one of our many clothing drives and recycling collection events at brownfields properties within the City that have been cleaned up in order to demonstrate the actual real-time benefits of addressing brownfields to our volunteers and those utilizing our programs. This information can also be relayed through our webpage and additional community outreach events. We will also work with the City and their hired environmental consultant to identify waste reduction opportunities while assessing and cleaning up brownfields. If awarded an assessment grant, we feel that blight removal and beautification of brownfields properties will be one of our most common joint activities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to allow our organizations to work closely together to reach many mutual goals.

Lori Gummow

Executive Director

KEEP NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEAUTIFUL



Our Mission: To improve our environment through Education, Public Awareness and Community Involvement.



ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT

The mission of the Rockford Park District is to HELP PEOPLE ENJOY LIFE

December 18, 2014

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg
City of Loves Park
100 Heart Boulevard
Loves Park, Illinois 61111

RE: Community Partner for the City of Loves Park's Brownfields Program

Dear Mayor Lindberg:

As Executive Director of the Rockford Park District, I would once again like to confirm our ongoing commitment and support to the City of Loves Park's Brownfields Program. As the second largest municipal park and recreation system in Illinois, which currently serves numerous communities within Winnebago County; the Rockford Park District is well aware of the need for close partnerships to effectively develop and operate our sustainable programs. We strongly feel that park space and recreation are essential for a prominent quality of life, resulting in a high return on investment of resources.

Our partnership has been previously demonstrated by providing representatives from the Rockford Park District to serve on the City's Brownfields Advisory Committee and Comprehensive Plan Review Committee. In addition, our joint redevelopment effort of the former J.H. Patterson Lumber Company site, which utilized the City's Brownfields Grant Funds, has not only been a great accomplishment for both of our organizations, but also for the communities we serve. The transformation of the site from a blighted and contaminated property to a diverse recreational attraction for all ages is a true success!

We look forward to continuously offering our services to the City's Brownfields Initiative Program by:

- Actively serving as an ongoing member of the City's Brownfields Advisory Committee and providing assistance with site prioritization and rankings.
- Identifying recreational service gap areas within the City that are in close proximity to brownfields where contamination may be negatively affecting residents.



401 South Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101-1321 • Phone 815-987-8800 • TTY 888-871-6171 • Fax 815-987-8877 • rockfordparkdistrict.org

Serving the Communities of Cherry Valley, Loves Park, New Milford, Rockford, and unincorporated areas of Winnebago and Boone Counties

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- Working towards filling service gap areas by redeveloping nearby Brownfields properties into well-maintained park space and recreational facilities that meet the recreational needs of the community and future generations.
- Leveraging additional funding sources and Park District resources for joint projects to ensure success.
- Promoting the use of redeveloped Brownfields properties to residents through marketing and continuously offering diverse and well supported recreational activities for their health, well-being, and entertainment, which are essential for a healthy lifestyle.

In order to promote health and livability through our park system, we must continue to diligently work towards cleaning up the blight and pollution that affects the health and well-being of our community. We look forward to continuously supporting the City of Loves Park's Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Dimke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Dimke" clearly distinguishable.

Tim Dimke
Executive Director – Rockford Park District

401 South Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61101
815-289-0700
timdimke@rockfordparkdistrict.org



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

January 2, 2014

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg
City of Loves
100 Heart Boulevard
Loves Park, Illinois 61111

Dear Mayor Lindberg,

The Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) is excited to partner with the City of Loves Park and play a key role in your Brownfield's initiatives. RMAP strongly recognizes that Loves Park Brownfields are playing a major role in long range transportation and land use planning, and environmental planning is a core area of the new Sustainable Communities partnership. Benefits to our organizations as well as community residents include:

- RMAP will continuously review existing conditions including land uses, street and intersection geometries, pedestrian facilities, and mass transit to identify long-term improvements. A key focus on blighted and poverty troubled areas will be made.
- RMAP will identify and work to secure available State and Federal funding sources to supplement Loves Park sponsored Brownfields redevelopment projects. Loves Park can play a primary role in identifying and prioritizing Brownfields properties in transportation corridors where investment is being considered.
- RMAP will continue to fund valuable planning studies we feel are needed to initiate projects that will ultimately lead to a more pedestrian friendly and sustainable community. The Riverside Boulevard Corridor Plan is an example of recent efforts funded by RMAP that traverse old industrial areas and help to guide implementation steps. In addition, the Rockford Region's "Preferred Sustainability Status" can help satisfy preliminary requirements and add bonus points to some grant programs.
- RMAP has merged a comprehensive inventory of Brownfields properties located throughout the City of Loves Park into a master GIS-based planning database of Brownfields properties identified throughout Winnebago and Boone Counties. Loves Park can provide frequent updates and status changes so the master inventory may be managed.
- RMAP will play an advisory role in Brownfields prevention by monitoring key community statistics, such as property foreclosure and vacancy risk scores, thus leading to corrective action steps.

RMAP and its partner agencies support the City of Loves Park's efforts to secure additional Brownfields Assessment and Remediation Grant Funds through the US EPA. We have seen the benefits that the previous Brownfields grant funds have provided and look forward to assisting your project with our planning expertise and ability to secure supplemental funding.

Sincerely,

Stephen K. Ernst, Executive Director

Cc: Dan Jacobsen, Community Development Director

our future, our goals, our map 313 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101 815.964.RMAP direct 815.967.6913 fax rmapil.org

Chairman Bob Walberg
Rock County, RMAP Chair

Chairman Scott H. Christensen
Winnebago County, RMAP Vice Chair

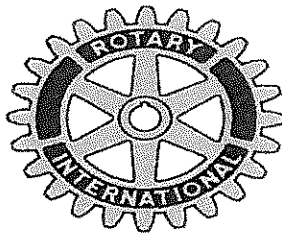
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg
City of Loves Park

Mayor Mike Gambelan
City of Belvidere

Mayor Lawrence J. Morley
City of Rockford

Mayor Leighton
Village of Machesney Park

Deputy Director Paul Loate
Illinois Department of Transportation
Region 10



Loves Park Rotary
PO Box 2118
Loves Park, IL 61130

January 20, 2014

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg
City of Loves Park
100 Heart Boulevard
Loves Park, Illinois 61111

RE: Community Partner for City of Loves Park's Brownfields Initiative

Dear Mayor Lindberg:

The primary mission of Rotary International's Loves Park Chapter is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Rotary International is a worldwide network of inspired individuals who translate our passions into relevant social causes to change lives in communities. We understand the value in assessing and cleaning up Brownfields within our community. Beyond the positive economic impacts, the health and social benefits generated as a result of the redevelopment of Brownfields are endless.

We are honored to be a community partner in the City's Brownfields Initiative. As a partner, we will seek to enhance the public's image and awareness of Brownfields through our meetings, events, and the use of our social networking and newsletters. We will also provide valuable input on assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment projects with a primary focus on the sustainability components. We will also increase collaboration and connection with other organizations to ensure all beneficial resources are leveraged and attempted to create significant projects both locally and regionally.

We are delighted that the City is seeking additional Brownfields Assessment Grant Funds through the U.S. EPA, as we have already seen the lasting benefit of the previous grants obtained by the City.

Thank you again,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Derek R. Papich".

Derek R. Papich, President
Loves Park Rotary Club
P.O. Box 2118
Loves Park, Illinois 61130-0118
Telephone (815) 670-8173



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217)782-2829

PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

LISA BONNETT, DIRECTOR

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg
City of Loves Park
100 Heart Boulevard
Loves Park, Illinois 61111

RE: Community Partnership with the City of Loves Park

Dear Mayor Lindberg,

On February 14, 2011, the City of Loves Park's City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 11-17 to promote the redevelopment of abandoned and/or underutilized lands and provide protection to health and the environment within the City of Loves Park. The resolution requested the assistance of the Illinois EPA and United States Environmental Protection Agency in identifying environmental conditions throughout the City limits; whereas, the identification of environmental conditions is critical to the future redevelopment of potential "brownfields" sites.

In August of 2011, The Illinois EPA's Office of Site Evaluations mobilized to the City of Loves Park to provide a timely and comprehensive environmental investigation on the redeveloped Sonic Drive-In property. As part of the redevelopment effort, the Illinois EPA provided drilling services along with the collection of soil and groundwater samples. In addition, the Illinois EPA provided laboratory analytical services for sample analysis. We estimate the total value of the provided services to be in the range of \$25,000 - \$30,000 if contracted out. The Illinois EPA is excited to have been able to provide these services at no cost to supplement the ongoing assessment and cleanup of the Sonic Drive-In property, which has already created valuable jobs and provided tax revenue for the City.

At your request, we look forward to serving as a Community Partner by providing our ongoing assistance with future projects involving brownfields redevelopment assessments, including the North Second Street/River Lane Overlay District and the numerous brownfields properties located along the Illinois Highway 251 and East Riverside Corridors. The Illinois EPA thanks you for your progressive approach at ensuring the health and well-being of the Citizens of Loves Park and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Crause", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Tom Crause

Manager - Illinois EPA Office of Site Evaluations
217-524-1658

**ATTACHMENT D:
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
CHECKLIST**

Appendix 3 Other Factors Checklist

Name of Applicant: City of Loves Park, Illinois

Please identify (with an **X**) which, if any of the below items apply to your community or your project as described in your proposal. To be considered for an Other Factor, you must include the page number where each applicable factor is discussed in your proposal. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal or in any other attachments, it will not be considered during the selection process.

	Other Factor	Page #
	Community population is 10,000 or less	
	Federally recognized Indian tribe	
	United States territory	
	Applicant will assist a Tribe or territory	
	Targeted brownfield sites are impacted by mine-scarred land	
	Targeted brownfield sites are contaminated with controlled substances	
	Recent natural disaster(s) (2006 or later) occurred within community, causing significant community economic and environmental distress	
X	Project is primarily focusing on Phase II assessments.	7,8
	Applicant demonstrates firm leveraging commitments for facilitating brownfield project completion by identifying amounts and contributors of funding in the proposal and have included documentation	
X	Community experienced manufacturing plant closure(s) (2008 or later) tied to the targeted brownfield sites or project area, including communities experiencing auto plant closures due to bankruptcy or economic disruptions.	15
	Recent (2008 or later) significant economic disruption (<u>unrelated</u> to a natural disaster or manufacturing/auto plant closure) has occurred within community, resulting in a significant percentage loss of community jobs and tax base.	
X	Applicant is a recipient or a core partner of a HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) grant that is directly tied to the project area, and can demonstrate that funding from a PSC grant has or will benefit the project area. To be considered, <u>applicant must attach documentation</u> which demonstrates this connection to a HUD-DOT-EPA PSC grant.	9,11
	Applicant is a recipient of an EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant	
X	Community is implementing green remediation plans.	5
	Climate Change	

Appendix 3 – Other Factors Checklist Supplement

RMAP/Loves Park/HUD Partnership Documentation

Introduction

The Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford region. What does RMAP do, and what is an MPO? We'll tell you.

By Federal law, all large urbanized areas (over 50,000 persons) are required to have an organization that plans and coordinates the decisions regarding the area's transportation systems. All the transportation stakeholders in the area must be participants of this organization and they must agree to cooperate.

The dynamic nature of transportation problems and situations necessitates that these entities conduct their work on a continuing basis; constantly monitoring the changing situations and updating their plans and improvement programs. Collectively, such efforts are simply referred to as "the transportation planning process" and the entities that perform this work are officially called Metropolitan Planning Organizations. RMAP is now the official MPO comprised of all the major local transportation stakeholders. RMAP continually plans and coordinates decisions regarding the Rockford region's major transportation systems.

Structure of RMAP

RMAP is empowered and governed by a Cooperative Agreement that was developed and mutually adopted by the Cities of Rockford, Loves Park, and Belvidere; the Counties of Winnebago and Boone; the Village of Machesney Park; and the State of Illinois acting through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The activities of RMAP are directed by a Policy Committee that consists of the top elected officials from the above entities plus the Deputy Director from IDOT Region 2.

The RMAP Policy Committee receives advice and assistance from a 16-member Technical Committee comprised of planners and/or engineers from the above entities along with representatives from the Rockford Mass Transit District, the Chicago / Rockford International Airport and various other local partners.

Much of the technical work accomplished by RMAP is done by a professional staff of 6 persons under the direction of the RMAP Executive Director. Some of the technical work RMAP needs to perform is occasionally out-sourced to professional consulting firms.

The RMAP planning process and planning activities are funded by annual planning grants from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with 20% matching funds from the local RMAP participants.

Partnering with HUD – Partnership for Sustainable Communities

Since 2011, the Rockford Region has been working to develop our first regional plan for sustainable development. This initiative, called "Rockford Region Vital Signs", is based first and foremost on taking the social, economic, and environmental pulse of the Rockford Region. Once community leaders know the strengths and weaknesses of the region's sustainability and well-being, it is our belief they can be more strategic in determining what needs to be done to improve the community.

Three reports are being released between now and early 2013 aiming to empower community leaders from diverse backgrounds, for perhaps the first time in concert, to have a clear picture of the region's interworking parts. The hope is our regions' leaders may then begin a conversation on how to improve the region's sustainability by being "on the same page".

This initiative is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Partnership for Sustainable Communities. **This award to the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) was the result of a local consortium of 30 agencies in Boone and Winnebago Counties, including the City of Loves Park; agreeing to support and align their strategic plans and long-range visions into a set of common goals and action steps.** The local consortium is anchored by RMAP, our regional metropolitan planning organization.

As this initiative is being funded by the HUD Sustainable Communities initiative, we are required to help make the community more sustainable and equitable. In doing so, this initiative positions the Metro to receive future implementation grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and HUD – the three main federal partner departments supporting the Sustainable Communities initiative. This program embodies a vastly different charge for our region than the federal government has asked of us in the past. This federal partnership seeks to further communities' livability by:

- Providing more transportation choices.
- Promoting equitable, affordable housing.
- Enhancing economic competitiveness.
- Supporting existing communities.
- Coordinating policies and leverage investment.
- Valuing communities and neighborhoods.

Contacting RMAP

Stephen K. Ernst
Executive Director
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Rockford, IL 61101
<http://www.rmapil.org/rmap-home/>

815.964.RMAP phone
815.967.6913 fax